

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Following is a list of plants and factories subordinate to the Third Main Administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry. I am not certain, however, whether the plants which I list here were subordinate to the Second or Third Main Administration. [REDACTED] for the plants and factories subordinate to the Second Main Administration/.

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Ostrava Mineral Oil Refinery

2. The principal products of this plant, which was located at Ostrava, were mineral oils, naphtha derivatives, auxiliary chemicals for the building industry, and asphalt. Plans, as of August 1952, called for construction to be begun in 1953 on a new fat processing (tukarna) department, but I have no further information on it. Besides spur tracks, there were four main railroad lines, with various loading points, crossing the plant's property. Some of the plant's facilities were used for storage purposes by the Ministry of Chemical Industry. I do not know the source of the refinery's power. I would estimate the number of workers at about 1,500. The refinery was under the supervision of a former worker, (fnu) Penkala.

Kolin Mineral Oil Refinery

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3. Located in Kolin [5002N-1512E], this refinery was quite old and prior to the war belonged to the Vacuum Oil Company. [REDACTED] very little about it. Heavily bombed during World War II, it was partially rebuilt during the years 1947-1950. I presume its main products were similar to those of the Ostrava Mineral Oil Refinery. I think that it had approximately 1,500 workers. It was formerly managed by Eng. (fnu) Neuman, who later became First Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

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Pardubice Mineral Oil Refinery

- 25X1X 4. [redacted] which was located in Pardubice. At one time a part of the Panto Trust, this refinery was heavily bombed during World War II and reconstructed after the war. I presume that its main products were similar to those of the Ostrava Mineral Oil Refinery. I think that it had about 1,500 workers.

Slovnaft Oil Refinery

5. Slovnaft was a refinery located in Bratislava on Bottova ulice. Built in the 1920s, this refinery has had some work done on it but no major additions, and I know of no plans for expansion. Its principal products were mineral oils and their derivatives and auxiliary chemicals for the building industry, but I can give no production figures. Spur tracks connected the plant with the port of Bratislava. I do not know the source of power, but a huge power station was under construction near the refinery and will presumably service it. I cannot estimate the number of workers employed there. The former manager, Ing. (fnu) SEDIVY, was dismissed in 1951 and I do not know who replaced him. The administrative deputy, Dr. (fnu) ROZEN, died in 1952.

Petrochema

- 25X1X 6. This ~~oil~~ refinery was located at Dubova /4849N-1926E/. I was [redacted] If any new building program is to be undertaken there, I am quite certain that it will be rather limited. /See Enclosure A for [redacted] memory sketch of the plant. All dimensions and distances are approximate. Petrochema, which was the largest producer in Czechoslovakia of auxiliary chemicals from an oil base /Spikovači oleje/, principally produced oils, auxiliary chemicals for the textile and tanning industries, and ~~auxiliary~~ chemicals for the building industry. Bottlenecks occurred from time to time due to lack of iron drums used in shipping auxiliary chemicals. The refinery had its own power station but I know nothing about it. Railroad spur tracks existed but I know nothing more about them than that they seemed to be adequate. About 1,000 people were employed by Petrochema, but I do not know whether they worked in two or three shifts. The manager of the refinery was a worker who replaced Ing. (fnu) SPENACH, the latter having been dismissed in 1951 and employed as a worker in a nearby paper factory.

Stalin Works (Synthetic Fuels Plant)

- 25X1X 7. Located three or four kilometers northwest of Most /5032N-1339E/ /614 center of the plant was located at 5034N-1337E/, the Stalin Works was by far the largest plant in the neighborhood, occupying an area of about two square kilometers. Founded by the Germans in 1942 and with production begun at the end of 1943, this plant was still not completed at the time World War II ended; it suffered considerable damage during the war. Inasmuch as the plant had been constructed by the Germans, the Russians claimed it as war booty in accordance with the Benes-Stalin agreement of 1943; after considerable discussions the plant was delivered to Czechoslovakia, ostensibly as a gift, but Czechoslovakia in return was compelled to surrender its prewar financial and industrial interests in the other Satellites, particularly in Rumania. Bombing damage incurred during the war was repaired and the plant partially reconstructed, and, since 1948, the existing facilities expanded. One new building was a department for the production of methanol, constructed in 1949. In 1950, construction was started on a department for the production of formaldehyde, but I do not know whether it was completed [redacted]

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8. The hydrogenation of brown coal was the basic process performed at this plant, which was situated in the center of the largest brown coal mining region in Czechoslovakia. Its biggest suppliers were the President Benes, Klement Gottwald, and Zdenek Nejedly mines. Among the products of the Stalin Works were gasoline, methanol, formaldehyde, pheno-cresol mixture, catechin (pyrocatechol), propanol, butanol, and bakelite. Undoubtedly there were other products, but I cannot recall any more. Gasoline produced by the plant was of a rather poor quality, being heavy and impure; consequently, high octane gasoline had to be imported, particularly from Rumania. Some of the plant's gas generators were obtained from Lurgi in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. One of the plant's bottlenecks had been a shortage of catalysts of the "oxo" type. For a period in 1950, they were obtained from Leuna but somewhat irregularly and usually on a rental basis; they subsequently had to be returned to Leuna when catalysts became available from the West, usually from Ludwigshafen. The shortage later became so acute that operations at the department using these catalysts almost ceased. Although I believe this shortage has been somewhat alleviated, I think that it is still presenting difficulties. Regarding catechin (pyrocatechol), shortly after 1946 production was established at the rate of about 50-100 tons per year, all of which was sent to the USSR. In 1950 catechin was no longer wanted by the USSR and production was discontinued.
9. The plant had its own power station but I know nothing about it. Railroad facilities in the plant area seemed quite adequate. Products were shipped to consumers in the 300-400 tank cars owned by the plant. Some products were shipped in steel drums or wooden barrels with capacities of from 100 to 250 kg. I would estimate the number of workers at 6,000-8,000, mostly Czechs but including many Slovaks. The workers worked in three shifts. The plant had always found it difficult to secure manpower because of insufficient living quarters for workers in the vicinity. At first huge camps were improvised and later new living quarters were constructed, especially in the village of Zaluzi ^{5034N-1336E}. Frontier villages in the mountains, abandoned by the Sudeten Germans, were also used to house workers. An extensive system of bus lines was also installed to take the workers to and from the plant. The plant manager was a former worker whose name I do not know. Former managers were Ing. (fnu) SVITAVSKY, who was removed from the post in 1950, and, later, Jindrich SNOBL (?), a Communist member of the Czech parliament, who in 1951 became manager of the Stalingrad heavy machinery plant in Prague. The Stalin Works was under military supervision and was considered extremely important to the nation's military setup. Only passes issued by the Ministry of National Defense were valid for entering the plant, and a military mission stationed at the plant supervised the security system. The plant was guarded by the workers' militia (milice).

Benzinol

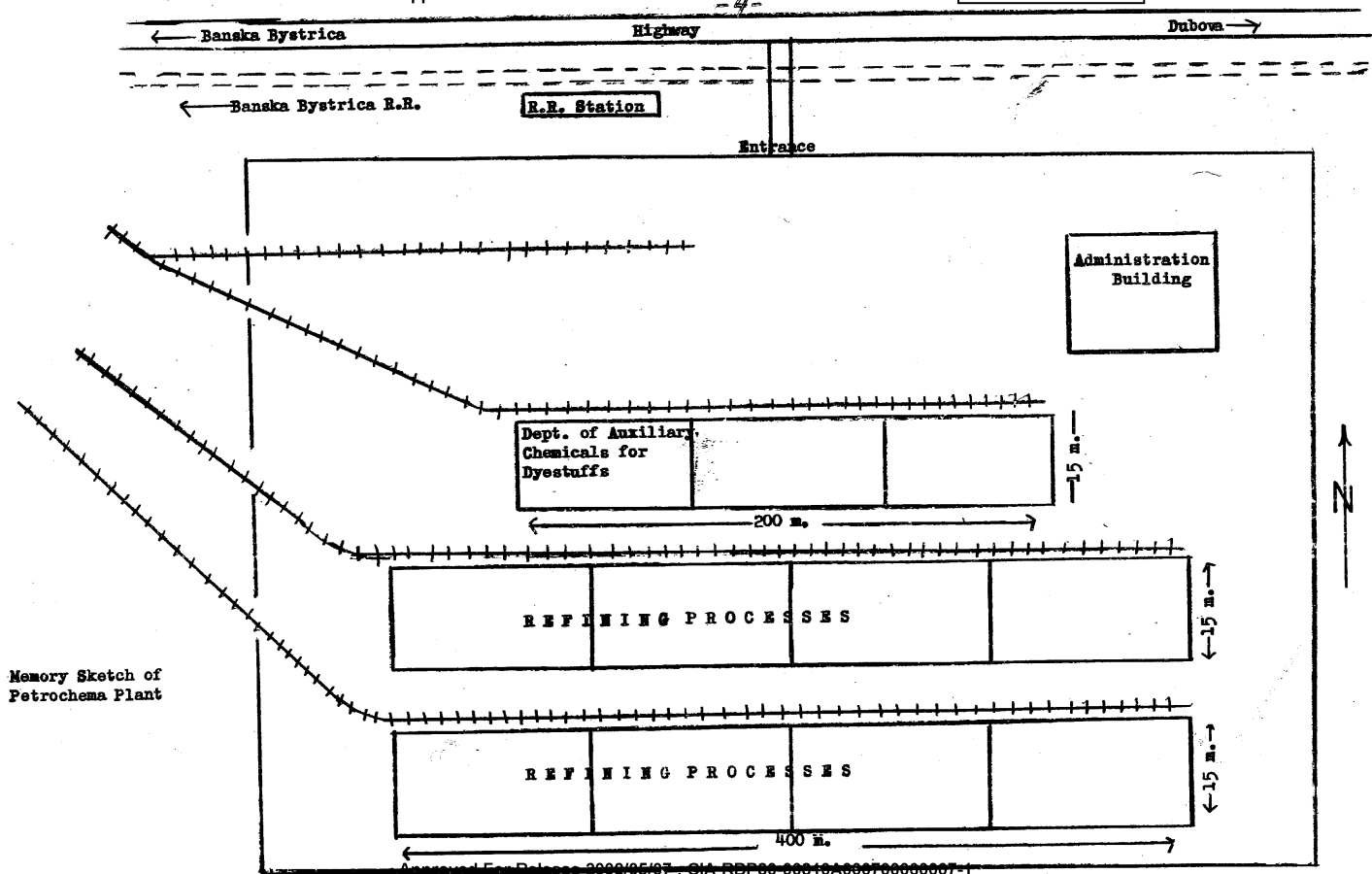
10. Benzinol, a monopolized national enterprise for the distribution of gasoline and oil, is included here because at the time of my defection it was subordinate either to the Second or Third Main Administrations. For some time prior to my defection, however, discussions had been under way to have its functions transferred to the Eighth Main Administration and, if this transfer has not already been effected, it will very soon be placed under the Eighth Main Administration. The headquarters for Benzinol were in Prague, but storage warehouses were maintained in all district cities and, in addition, all gasoline stations were under its jurisdiction. I do not know, however, any details on this organization.

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Annex A

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Memory Sketch of
Petrochema Plant

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